

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A combustion method for NO<sub>x</sub> reduction, comprising in combination the steps of:

5 a first NO<sub>x</sub> reduction step for suppressing generated NO<sub>x</sub> value to 60 ppm or under (at 0% O<sub>2</sub> in exhaust gas, dry basis) by a low NO<sub>x</sub> burner;

a second NO<sub>x</sub> reduction step for recirculating exhaust gas of the low NO<sub>x</sub> burner to a burning reaction zone formed by the low NO<sub>x</sub> burner; and

10 a third NO<sub>x</sub> reduction step for adding water or steam to the burning reaction zone.

2. A combustion method for NO<sub>x</sub> reduction as claimed in claim 1, wherein the third NO<sub>x</sub> reduction step is performed by spraying water directly to the burning  
15 reaction zone.

3. A combustion method for NO<sub>x</sub> reduction as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second NO<sub>x</sub> reduction step is performed with a target exhaust NO<sub>x</sub> value set to 30 ppm or under (at 0% O<sub>2</sub> in exhaust gas, dry basis) and with an  
20 exhaust-gas recirculation quantity set in a stable combustion range of the low NO<sub>x</sub> burner, and any NO<sub>x</sub> value exceeding the target exhaust NO<sub>x</sub> value is reduced by the third NO<sub>x</sub> reduction step.

4. A combustion method for NO<sub>x</sub> reduction as claimed  
25 in claim 3, wherein the third NO<sub>x</sub> reduction step is

performed by spraying water directly to the burning reaction zone.

5. A combustion apparatus for NO<sub>x</sub> reduction, comprising:

5 a low NO<sub>x</sub> burner for suppressing generated NO<sub>x</sub> value to 60 ppm or under (at 0% O<sub>2</sub> in exhaust gas, dry basis);

exhaust gas recirculation means for recirculating exhaust gas of the low NO<sub>x</sub> burner to a burning reaction  
10 zone formed by the low NO<sub>x</sub> burner; and

water or steam addition means for adding water or steam to the burning reaction zone.

6. A combustion apparatus for NO<sub>x</sub> reduction, comprising:

15 a low NO<sub>x</sub> burner for suppressing generated NO<sub>x</sub> value to 60 ppm or under (at 0% O<sub>2</sub> in exhaust gas, dry basis);

exhaust gas recirculation means for recirculating exhaust gas of the low NO<sub>x</sub> burner to a burning reaction  
20 zone formed by the low NO<sub>x</sub> burner; and

water spraying means for spraying water directly to the burning reaction zone.